GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1593
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
SCHEME FOR COCONUT FARMERS .
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) The details of new welfare schemes being implemented by the Coconut Development Board to support the coconut farmers in view of the growing competition from countries like Sri Lanka etc.;

(b) Whether any subordinate office of the Coconut Development Board is functioning in Lakshadweep where most of the people depend on coconut products; and

(c) If so, the details of the welfare scheme available for the farmers and the cooperatives? ANSWER

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a):For the benefit of coconut farmers, the Coconut Development Board (CDB) is implementing various schemes viz. expansion of area under coconut, management of disease affected palms, technology demonstration programme, dissemination of information and improvement of productivity by providing financial assistance for production & distribution of quality planting materials and laying out demonstration plots. The Board also provides financial support for processing & product diversification, value addition and market research and promotion of value added products of coconut under Technology Mission on Coconut (TMOC) Coconut Development Board has invested an amount of Rs.110.40 crores during the last four years (2002-03 to 2005-06) on the above programmes.

In addition to the above measures, to protect the coconut farmers from growing competition from the countries like Srilanka, the import duty of desiccated coconut has been enhanced from 30% to 60.2% . Coconut and Coconut Products are also included in the sensitive list in South Asia Foreign Trade Agreement (SAFTA) and are thus protected from reduction of import duties.

(b)&(c): No, Sir. However, the Board is implementing the above schemes in Lakshadweep through the Department of Agriculture of UT Administration of Lakshadweep.

Under the new scheme namely High Value Agriculture in UT of Lakshadweep, a provision of Rs.5.40 crores has been made during X Five Year Plan. The scheme is funded under on going schemes of Coconut Development Board, National Horticulture Board & National Horticulture Mission with enhanced scale of subsidy up to 50% of the cost of Projects.